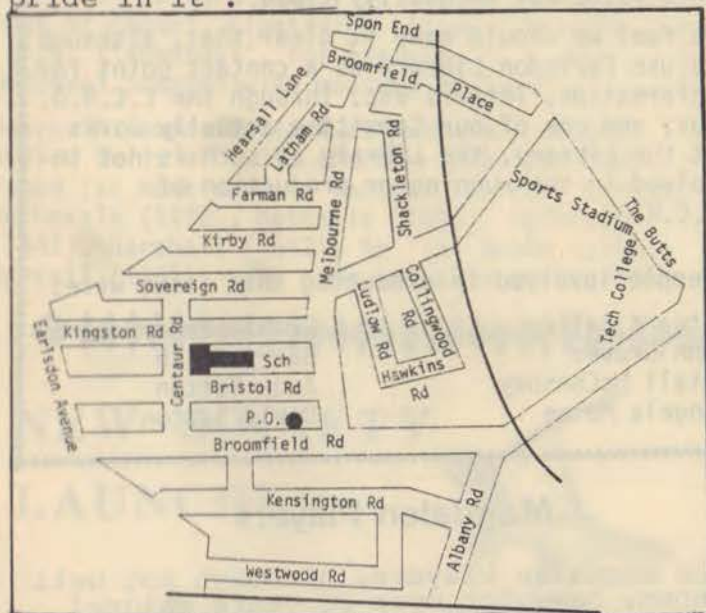


# NEW SOCIETY LAUNCHED

A NEW SOCIETY WHICH OPENS UP A WHOLE RANGE OF EXCITING POSSIBILITIES IN THE HEARSALL AREA WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON 14th APRIL.

A public meeting at Hearsall School attended by over 60 people heard details of the Hearsall Environmental Society (H.E.S.) and its plans for the area shown in the map here. The Society's committee members all live in the area and the theme of the new venture is "Hearsall is our home - let us take a pride in it".

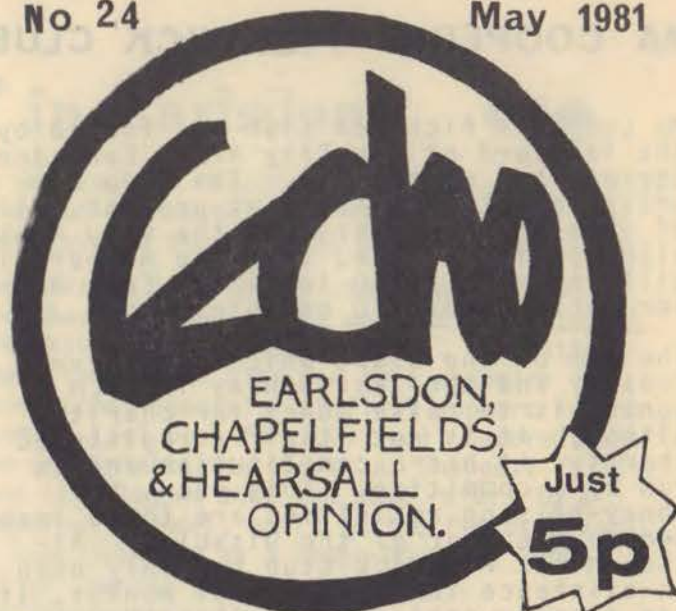


Jim King, Chairman of the H.E.S. explained its seven-point plan for improvements in the area. A tree planting campaign has been going on for some time with the work being done mainly by the 'Hearsall Hawks', a group of local lads who have become enthusiastic about the Society's aims. The trees have been donated by a local businessman and on 3rd April the Lord Mayor planted the 100th tree at Hearsall School.

The new Society's main proposal, however is an ambitious but carefully planned entry improvement scheme. The entries are at present in a very poor state and it is estimated by a local estate agent that if all entries in the area were to be tarmac'd each property would increase in value by about £1,000. A thorough survey of all entries commissioned by the Society shows that the scheme will cost an estimated £30,000 involving 1,500 houses and over 100 commercial properties. It is proposed to ask all householders (or landlords) and businesses to pay £25 towards the cost on the basis of an expected 60% response throughout the area as a whole. If more than 60% agree to pay, the money left over will be paid back when the work is finished. The Chairman pointed out that

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100% agreement could probably never be obtained because some people would be unable or unwilling to pay. It was not practical to try to obtain the money by fundraising and under the proposed scheme everyone would get a first-class supervised job done.



Photo by Paul Silver

The Lord Mayor plants the hundredth tree while Jim King looks on.

By tackling the area as a whole it should be possible to obtain support from central and local government. The Society has approached the Manpower Services Commission (M.S.C.) and the City Council for help. John Payne from the Planning Department explained that if the project was approved the work would be done under an M.S.C. scheme as part of the new Community Enterprise Programme. They would pay five workmen and a supervisor for one year and contribute £400 per employee towards materials costs. The workmen would be recruited by local people and could include some of our own unemployed. In turn, the City Council is being asked to give assistance through its Impact '81 scheme to help voluntary groups to improve their environment. On April 29th (after we went to press) Councillors were considering a £1500 grant to the Society and have agreed to help with administration and in purchasing materials.

(continued on page 3)



## MA COOPER'S PICKWICK CLUB

Ma Cooper's Pickwick Club was formed by the landlord of the City Arms, Earlsdon Street, two months ago. The Club comprises about 30 members at present, all of whom are 'regulars' at the City Arms, although it is hoped that the membership will increase to 60 in time. Each member contributes £10 on joining.

The aim of the Club, which meets every Tuesday and the last Sunday in each month, is to raise money for charity. Although it is not itself a registered charity, it has a constitution and is run by a committee. This year, the money-raising activities are to be devoted to the Year of the Disabled. Although the Pickwick Club has only been in existence for a couple of months, it has already achieved results. Members of the Club have dressed up as Giant Mister Men and taken disabled children into the city centre to raise money, and then treated them and their parents to lunch.

The Club has also arranged a 'Sponsored Slim', although only one person actually reached the target weight. However this still raised £200 as those who didn't do very well had to contribute to the fund as a penalty!

Social events for the benefit of members such as a barge trip, are being arranged to encourage more interest in the Club.

On 2nd May the Pickwick Club will be holding their next fundraising event - a Spring Fair in the City Arms car park at 11.00 am. All money raised will be for the benefit of disabled people.

## DONKEY DERBY

On 30th May Coventry Rotary Club are holding a Donkey Derby and Fete on the playing fields of King Henry VIII School, Spencer Road entrance. The gates open at 2.00 pm with the first race at 2.30 pm, and in addition to the donkeys there will be many stalls and sideshows.

Entrance will be by Race Card, price 20p, obtainable in advance from Parbury's Copy Shop or Atkins & Barker, both on Albany Road, or at the gate on the day. Children will be admitted free but must be accompanied by an adult.

So for a day of family fun don't forget Coventry Rotary Club's DONKEY DERBY & FETE at KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL, Spencer Road, on SATURDAY 30th MAY.

All profits will go to Rotary charities.

For any further information please contact Harold Smart at Smart Sound & Vision Ltd., Hawkins Road, Earlsdon (tel: 77449).

## E.C.H.O

We would like to thank all our readers for making last month's 'Second Birthday' issue a sell-out, and we hope you will continue to show the same support for your local newspaper. We rely on your letters, articles and information, and will welcome anybody who would like to help us to produce E.C.H.O.

We had considerable problems in getting this issue of E.C.H.O. typed ready for printing, due to the typewriter we normally use developing an unexpected, but temporary, fault. We would like to express our thanks to the people who granted us access to various electric typewriters, over the course of a weekend, and in particular to Harold Smart, of Smart Sound & Vision Ltd., on whose machine the bulk of this issue was eventually typed!

We feel we should make it clear that, although we use Earlsdon Library as a contact point for information, letters etc. through the E.C.H.O. Box, and one of our Committee actually works at the Library, the Library as such is not involved in the running or production of E.C.H.O.

People involved in producing this issue were:

Stuart Bailey  
Ann Groves  
Niall McChesney  
Angela Maton

Graham Partridge  
Barry Smith  
Andy Sutton  
David Sutton

## Magdalen Players

The Magdalen Players, although not well known, have for over 20 years enjoyed performing a wide variety of plays. This small dedicated group of actors, rarely more than twelve in number, are solely responsible for every production. From the choice of the play, the design and building of the set, to the closing of the curtain after each performance, this team do the lot!

The pride and dedication reflects in the faithful and almost exclusive audience who are always ready to obtain tickets for forthcoming productions.

For those who did not know of the existence of this well established drama group, an opportunity to sample their talents can be had on 7th, 8th and 9th May, when the premiere of a new comedy, 'Many Happy Returns', will be performed at 7.45 pm on each night, at St. Mary Magdalen's Church Hall, Craven Street. Tickets available at Hayes Newsagents, Hearsall Lane, or pay on entrance.

Where else can one get a jolly good night's entertainment, a cup of tea, a biscuit and a programme for 60p? (Children and Senior Citizens 30p) See you there!



## ◆◆◆ Who put the 'Earl' in Earlsdon? ◆◆◆

Our area has a number of distinctive place-names, and we thought it might be interesting to investigate their origins.

The oldest of them are those associated with the Spon District and Spon End. This part of Coventry is referred to as Spanna in the Charter Roll of 1144, and there are a number of references to Sponne and Sponnestret in 13th century documents. There are 15th century references to Pontem de Sponna or Sponbrygge, but linguists tell us that the origin of the name is unlikely to lie in the obvious idea that this district 'spans' the Sherbourne, since this use of the word 'span' is not found before the 16th century. It is more likely to lie in archaic meanings of 'span', signifying either 'distance' or 'size' ('spannmål', for example, is a pre-medieval Scandinavian measure of land).

Hearsall Common appears as Hethesall in the Assize Rolls of 1232, and the name then developed (as mentioned in various sources) through Hethesale (1432), Hethsale (1496), Hethsall (1541), Harshall (1542), to 'the heath called Hearsall (1581). The name seems to derive from

the Old English 'haethes heale', meaning 'at the corner of the heath'. In medieval times this heath covered the whole of what is now Canley.

Chapelfields is a fairly common place-name throughout England (there were at least two in Warwickshire in the Middle Ages), indicating simply the fields attached to a chapelry (or chapel-constituency). It first appears in the Coventry Leet Book for 1581, well before there were any inhabitants there, as 'Chappell feild'. There is a legend that the name refers to a 'Chapel of Sponne', built in the fields beyond the Spon district as a leper-house by Hugh, Earl of Chester (who died in 1181).

Earlsdon is referred to as Alsdensfield in the Coventry Leet Book of 1423. It was a series of fields perhaps named after an early owner, just possibly Ella (an old Germanic name which is often deduced to be part of compound place-names). The district was known as Elsdone in 1675 and is Elsdon in the 1841 Leet Book. It was changed to Earlsdon, almost certainly for reasons of snobbery, as the area developed in the second half of the 19th century. The name has no connection with any earl.

## NEW SOCIETY LAUNCHED



(continued from front page)

In answer to questions, Jim King said that if the scheme goes ahead the work will be done on a block-by-block basis, and if there is a good response the Society hope to begin work on 1st July. The Society will open a scheme so that people who cannot pay £25 at once can pay in instalments.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to support the entry improvement scheme and a large number of people offered help by signing the membership register. Support was also expressed for other plans put forward by the Society. They hope to hold a sponsored 'bulb plant' by local youngsters in the autumn to brighten up waste land etc. in the area. The City Council have agreed to fix litter bins to lamp posts and provide skips for sponsored clean-ups involving the Hearsall Hawks and other local youngsters. The meeting agreed to approach British rail to improve the fencing of the railway lines to deter children from playing on them. The Society's proposal to rename the Black Pad recreation area as Hearsall Park and instigate a variety of improvements was also approved.

The Society also has plans to hold social events in the future, including a winter programme of talks, an annual Hearsall Fete and visits to places of interest. The H.E.S. declares itself to be non-political, non-denominational and non-racial, and E.C.H.O. is satisfied that claims that the organisation is a 'front' for the Unification Church or 'Moonies' are unfounded. We will of course continue to report on the progress of the H.E.S. as its activities develop.

Further information can be obtained from:

Chairman: Jim King, 65 Broomfield Rd.  
Secretary: Lore McKeogh, 184 Broomfield Rd.

Treasurer: John Jennings, The Post Office, Broomfield Rd.



The Lord Mayor with the Hearsall Hawks.

Photo by Paul Silver



# Dear Echo

*your letters page.*

## Last Tram?

Can any Earlsdonian please tell me definitely the date the last tram ran between Earlsdon and Broadgate, and the date the bus service commenced?

I am seeking this information in order to settle an argument between my oldest friend and her husband.

I would say it was somewhere between Spring and Autumn of 1937, but I cannot be positive about this as I was born in Huntingdon Road and lived there until May 1938. Therefore the No.1 bus was the most convenient for me.

Miss E.M. Brown,  
178 Canley Road.

If you have something to say on local issues, please write to us via the E.C.H.O. BOX, in Earlsdon Library.

## Care of Victims

This country has an elaborate system to deal with the problem of crime but there is no Government Department with a clear responsibility to care for the victims. The first response to this situation was made in Bristol in 1973, when a Victims Support Scheme was started with the full backing of the Bristol Police. Following on from this some Coventry citizens decided to start a similar scheme in this city.

"Care of Victims" (C.O.V.) is the name of the Coventry scheme launched in 1975. This was the first to be formed in the Midlands. Since then the number of schemes in the country has risen to over 60. A National Association has been set up and a National Development Officer appointed.

The Government has provided a grant towards the running of the National Association but all local groups have to be self-financing, either by fund-raising efforts or by grants from Charitable Trusts. C.O.V. has been fortunate in receiving a grant from the Queensway Trust to get it started but in future we shall have to stand on our own two feet.

What can C.O.V. offer you as a resident of the Earlsdon-Chapelfields area? If you have the misfortune to be the victim of a crime, such as burglary, you will probably find it a very disturbing experience. It has become clear that the severity of the offence bears little relation to the emotional effects on the individual. People often feel that their homes have been contaminated by a burglary, even if little has been stolen, or they lose confidence in their fellow men after a theft.

## Bus Cuts

First of all thanks very much for the coverage of the County Council Elections on 7th May. As you say these are very important elections as the County Council run important services like public transport, the police and waste disposal.

However you are not quite correct with regard to Labour's manifesto on the restoration of the Tory cuts in the bus services. While the Labour Party is pledged to restore the overall levels of service, this does not necessarily mean that we will restore exactly the same service. Indeed many people in Earlsdon and Chapelfields have told us that restoring the old No.1 bus service to its previous level would still not meet many people's requirements. We therefore need to know what type of service your readers really want, such as for example an improved cross-city route and/or more regular services to the railway station.

If we are elected on 7th May, we will need to know your views, so that we can all have a bus service which meets our requirements.

Tim Brown, Dennis Hunt, Helen Lowe,  
(Labour Party Candidates for the  
County Council Elections),  
c/o 124 Kenilworth Court,  
Coventry.

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A trained volunteer can help with practical advice about security of the house, claims for compensation, legal problems, social security benefits etc. Also the victim may welcome the opportunity to talk about problems in confidence with a sympathetic listener. This is particularly true for elderly people living alone, which is the case for a surprisingly large number of local residents.

A larger band of volunteers would be able to help more victims. The police inform the co-ordinator daily of the incidents where C.O.V. may be able to help. These number between 30 and 40 a week. Volunteers find that even those people who do not need help are pleased to know that someone cares about what has happened and this often helps to restore peoples' confidence in society.

If interested in becoming a volunteer, ring Glenda, the co-ordinator on Coventry 613193.

Joan Perrens  
Chairman, C.O.V.



# Being Disabled

There are about 250 people with some disability who are in contact with the Earlsdon Social Services Office. About forty of them are physically handicapped, forty mentally handicapped and about fifty suffer from mental illness. Continuing our series to mark the International Year of Disabled People, we have spoken to a couple of ladies who belong to Earlsdon Day Club for the Physically Handicapped.

A lady who lives in Merrivale Road, Chapelfields, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, can only walk up to one hundred yards. She does most of her shopping in a large supermarket in Birmingham, as everything is on the same floor, unlike most Coventry shops, and the gangways between the shelves are wide enough for a wheelchair. She sometimes goes to Cannon Park Shopping Centre, but the car park for disabled people's cars is normally full of cars belonging to able-bodied people.

She drew our attention to a toilet for disabled people outside the market in the city centre, where although it is easy to get in, once inside it is impossible to shut the door whilst in the wheelchair. She mentioned that there are no phones for disabled people, but apparently these are soon to be introduced inside toilets for disabled people. There are very few places where a wheelchair can be pushed off the kerb (i.e. pavement ramps) which obviously creates problems in crossing roads. It is also difficult to get into shops which have steps, although most local shopkeepers will come out and help if they see someone in a wheelchair outside. The Maudslay Road Post Office has a ramp outside which makes it a lot easier for disabled people to enter the shop.

As far as transport is concerned, the Dial-a Ride service operated by Social Services is extremely useful, but does not run for long enough. It is of course impossible to get on a bus unaided in a wheelchair, especially the one-man buses, where it is up to the drivers whether they allow on somebody in a wheelchair.

She has found most people's attitude towards disabled people very good, but gets very annoyed when people start 'talking down' to her instead of speaking to her normally.

Another lady who lives in Innis Road 5 told us that people often say they are willing to help but when the need arises they don't seem to be there. A knock on the door from time to time to ask if anything needs doing would be more useful since on the whole disabled people do not like to trouble people by asking. It would be very helpful to have people who could do small odd jobs around the house such as fixing a doorbell. She had great praise for the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme based at Earlsdon Methodist Church; members help to put her to bed each evening. The Dial-a-Ride service has also been very useful to her.

It seems that there are a number of ways in which life could be made easier for disabled people locally. Access to Earlsdon Street Post Office is impossible for a person in a wheelchair, and a possible short cut down the wide entry between Palmerston Road and Stanley Road is blocked by bars intended to stop cyclists. It would be easier to push wheelchairs along tarmac paths than across paving stones, and raised drain covers can cause problems. She agreed that lowered kerbstones on the corners at junctions would be very useful.

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PEOPLE



**SATURDAY 9th MAY**

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

OUTSIDE EARLSDON LIBRARY

Information for Disabled People and an Exhibition organised by Earlsdon Social Services Office.

Specialist social workers who work with the physically handicapped, blind, deaf, mentally ill, mentally handicapped, chronically ill and frail elderly will be present to discuss provision and problems experienced by disabled people.

A welfare rights check on benefits and allowances for disabled people will also be available.

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TEL. 76015

Anyone for Tennis?  
If you are interested in joining a local group of non-beginners who want to play for fun this Summer please contact Graham Partridge at Earlsdon Library.

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in excellent working order.  
Offers. Tel 461835

## Adult Classes

## Summer 81

Hearsall Community Primary School,  
Bristol Road.

**TUESDAY**  
1.15 pm Old Time Dancing

**THURSDAY**  
7.00 pm Upholstery

Enquiries: Shirley Pepper - 74625

Canley Community Centre, Queen  
Margaret's Road, Canley.

Classes start week beg. 27th April  
Classes start at 7.30 pm unless stated

**MONDAY**  
6.30 pm Dog Training Club  
Italian (Intermediate) Art  
Photography (Intermediate)  
8.15 pm Bingo

**TUESDAY**  
5.30 pm Senior Citizens' Group  
6.00 pm Boxing Club Training

**WEDNESDAY**  
9.30 am Pottery  
3.00 pm Legal Advice Centre  
3.00 pm Old Time Dancing Group  
Pottery Photography

**THURSDAY**  
10.00 am Spinning and Weaving  
2.00 pm Senior Citizens' Art  
6.00 pm Boxing Club Training  
6.30 pm Dog Training Club  
7.00 pm Wine Club  
8.15 pm Bingo

**FRIDAY**  
Roller Skating Club (Youth Centre)

**SATURDAY**  
9.30 am Roller Skating Club (Y.C.)

**SUNDAY**  
10.00 am Boxing Club Training  
10.00 am Dog Training Club

Enquiries: Rennie Johnston or Stan  
Bird - 75121

Barr's Hill School & Community College,  
Radford Road.

Most classes start week beg. 4th May  
Classes start at 7.00 pm unless stated

**MONDAY**  
Intermediate German Electronics  
Spinning and Weaving  
7.30 pm Judo

**TUESDAY**  
9.30-11.30am English as 2nd lang. FREE  
Car Maintenance (Beginners) Pottery  
Drawing & Painting Metalwork  
English O' level Dressmaking  
Holiday French Spanish  
The Seeing Eye - unusual art course  
Modern Dance  
8.00 pm Yoga For Beginners  
8.00 pm Tai Kwon-do

**WEDNESDAY**  
9.45-12.00 noon Craft Club for O.A.P.s  
Adult Literacy FREE Cooking For One  
Woodwork Typing  
8.00 pm Badminton  
8.00 pm Ladies Keep Fit

**THURSDAY**  
History of Coventry  
6.00 pm General Sports for Women  
6.00 pm Adult Tennis (Beginners)  
8.00 pm Circuit Training

**FRIDAY**  
9.30-11.30am English as 2nd lang. FREE  
6.00 pm Karate

Enquiries: Val McGuigan, Ian Minty or  
Maddy De Little - 52291

Alderman Callow School & Community  
College, Mitchell Ave., Canley.

Classes start week beg. 27th April  
Classes start at 7.00 pm unless stated

**MONDAY**  
2.00-4.00 Afternoon Activities - Wood-  
carving, Badminton etc. FREE  
Language Self-Study - French, Spanish  
or German

**TUESDAY**  
Spanish (Intermediate) Typing  
Beauty Care and Grooming

**WEDNESDAY**  
1.30 pm Woodcarving FREE  
French (Intermediate) Men's Keep Fit  
Archeology - starts 6th May

**THURSDAY**  
2.00-4.00 Afternoon Activities -  
Gardening etc. FREE  
Tap Dancing for Adults Badminton  
Chess Club Basic Maths FREE  
Reading and Writing FREE

**FRIDAY**  
8.00 pm Community Association Evening

**GOING ABROAD?**  
Sat. 16th May 9.30 am - 12.30 pm:  
Holiday Spanish Holiday Italian

Sat. 16th June 9.30 am - 12.30 pm:  
Holiday French Holiday German

Enquiries: Rennie Johnston or Dave  
Crossan - 460363 or 467779

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# DON'T WASTE IT!

Do you hate throwing away things that you think could be useful to someone else, but you don't know what else to do with them? Starting this month we will be doing a series of articles to promote local re-use and recycling of unwanted items. The success of this series will depend very much on you - either as someone with waste or as someone willing and able to collect and re-use it.

There are many types of waste materials which some local people no doubt collect already to put to good use - e.g. providing items for playgroups, raising money for charity. What about used stamps, silver paper, bottles, newspaper, cardboard, egg cartons, rags, plastic containers and so on? These are all useful to somebody. We would like to know who. Contact us via the E.C.H.O. Box in Earlsdon Library and we will publish the relevant details. In our May issue we hope to give details about what to do with waste paper and cardboard.

## Waste Oil

We begin the series by telling motorists what they can do with their WASTE OIL.

It is strictly illegal to pour waste engine oil down the drain and there are heavy fines for a conviction. Some motorists dig a deep hole and bury the oil but this is not satisfactory as

the oil can seep through to contaminate water supplies. It is estimated that as much as ten million gallons of oil may be wasted every year in this country by illegal dumping. As much as 30% of this waste oil could be recycled. Oil recovery companies already collect waste oil for either re-refining to produce top quality oils or for a cheaper 'laundering' process which just removes the impurities.

We conducted a survey of the garages in the area recently and found that some of them are happy to accept waste oil from the public during opening hours. We suggest that when you visit one of these garages listed below to dispose of your waste oil you might consider buying your new oil there too, as a gesture of goodwill:

The Old Road Garage,  
Allesley Old Road,  
Tel: 74892.  
Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 6pm  
Sat: 8.30am - 2pm

Chandos Motors,  
Albany Road,  
Tel: 73291.  
Mon-Fri: 9am - 6pm  
CLOSED 1 - 2pm

E.O. Renshaw,  
Kensington Rd. Garage,  
Tel: 72617.  
Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 6pm  
Sat: 8.30am - 1pm

Princes Motors,  
Bedford Street,  
Tel: 26060.  
Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 6pm  
Sat: 9am - 1pm

Pearce Motors,  
Earlsdon Avenue North,  
Tel: 74256.  
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm

## Easter Competition

The winner of our Easter competition was 11-year-old Paula Nightingale, who lives in Nightingale Lane. All the entries, lists of words made from 'HAPPY EASTER', were checked and many words had to be disallowed, but Paula's came out as the winning entry with 173 accepted words.



Paula is pictured here receiving her prize from Paul Hayes, of Hayes Newsagents, who donated the two Easter Eggs (a very large one not being available). She decided to give the larger egg to a raffle held at St. Barbara's Church in aid of the Myton Hamlet hospice appeal.

Photo by Barry Smith

## Universal

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## St. MARY MAGDALEN'S

# May Fayre ~ May 16th

St. Mary Magdalen's May Fayre will be held this year on Saturday 16th May at 2.00 pm on All Souls playing field. The proceeds will go towards the West End Project to finish the west end of the church.

The Fayre will be opened by Andy Lloyd of Mercia Sound, and the entertainment will include the City of Coventry Corps of Drums, Phoenix Gymnastic Club, and the 20th City of Coventry Brownies.



**Brown & Unsworth**

Brown and Unsworth, of Earlsdon Street, manufacture a wide range of purpose-made wood furniture. Their products include bar counters, church work, window frames and they are specialists in one-off stair fittings. They supply both trade and domestic customers, and attempt to provide the customer with what they are asking for.

Mr. Reg Brown started the firm in the late fifties and it moved to Earlsdon twelve years ago. It now employs eleven craftsmen, who are skilled at working in all kinds of wood.

The firm supplies builders working on new houses on a range of sites across the Midlands and the South of England. It has fitted out the Wyken Pippin and the Coundon Casino, in addition to restoration work at Longford Parish Church. It receives a certain amount of passing trade from the E.C.H.O. area and also has contacts with a number of local builders.

**Changes in Craven Street**

The Craven Arms' growing popularity is reflected in its recent refurbishing, to increase seating capacity, and in its inclusion in the 1981 Good Beer Guide. However, as it lies within the Chapelfields Conservation Area, the plans to extend it must be investigated by the Council authorities. It is expected that the application will be considered at the

Planning Sub-Committee's meeting on 6th May, and we should be able to give details of the outcome in next month's E.C.H.O.

A familiar part of the Chapelfields scene disappeared on 25th April, when the Craven Street Stores at 60 Craven Street closed down. The property has been bought by the Whitbread brewery, owners of the Craven Arms pub next door. Whitbread have made a formal application to develop the former shop as an extension of the Craven Arms, and detailed plans have been drawn up.

**OLD PHOTO**

*Looking towards Coventry from Earlsdon over the area called "The Six Fields", long since built over.*



# ARDEN ENTERPRISES



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